



**PHIL BREDESEN**  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
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**TIMOTHY K. WEBB, Ed.D.**  
COMMISSIONER

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Special Education Directors  
**FROM:** Linda Copas, Director of Behavior/Autism Services  
**DATE:** Sept. 1, 2008  
**RE:** TRIAD Winter Institute

From **Dec. 2-5, 2008**, a **Winter Institute** focusing on Integrating Different Methodologies for teaching students with autism will be held in Nashville. This four-day Winter Institute, presented by staff from TRIAD at Vanderbilt and sponsored by the Division of Special Education, is the same training as the Summer Institute. It is open to two, four-person teams from each grand region of Tennessee (24 participants in all). Each team will concentrate on developing a program for a particular student with autism in their school, and will receive a follow-up site visit later in the year. The team needs to bring information about the student's IEP, behavior plan, cognitive functioning, etc. Teams can consist of teachers, parents, paraprofessionals, SLPs, psychologists, etc.; or, any school personnel who provide direct service **to the same child with autism**. Usually, all team members work in the same school.

The Institute will consist of a combination of lectures, videotape demonstrations, and hands-on learning experiences to teach the methodologies of discrete trial training, structured teaching, and incidental teaching. During the first three days, trainers will provide an overview of ABA and specifics about the components, teaching sequences, and phases of discrete trial training, structured teaching, and incidental teaching. On the fourth day, participants will learn about integrating the different methodologies and will practice their implementation including making various visual supports for their specific student.

There is no cost to participants for tuition, but the costs for lodging, transportation, and food must be provided by participants or their school systems.

Schools or supervisors interested in applying should contact Linda Copas, 615-741-7790, or e-mail her at [Linda.Copas@state.tn.us](mailto:Linda.Copas@state.tn.us) for an application. **Return of the application does not mean automatic acceptance.** Please fill out the application completely and carefully. The deadline for applying is November 3, 2008.

Remember, this is a team application. **Individuals without a team will not be considered.** Each team will need to have approval from the LEA Special Education Director to apply.

Linda W. Copas  
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